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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. CAPITO) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Thomas Peoples, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Wisner, Louisiana, offered the following prayer:

Our Father, we thank You for our Nation and for each of the men and women elected to serve our Nation in the House. We ask that You bless their families and staff. Father, give them wisdom and strength. Wisdom to do what is best for our Nation and not just what is good; strength to then stand firm for what is best.

Father, we thank You for our President and ask that You also bless him with wisdom and strength. Continue to be with those who serve in our military and keep them and their families safe.

Now, Father, we ask that You be with each person affected by the hurricane. May those who have lost family and friends know You are there to give them comfort and peace. Be with those who have lost their houses, their jobs, and that place which they called home. We thank You for those giving help and assistance. Please keep them safe and strong.

Lord, to overcome something of this magnitude seems impossible; but we are thankful that with You nothing is impossible. We give You the glory and praise You in the name of Jesus. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BURGESS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING AND HONORING
REVEREND THOMAS PEOPLES

(Mr. ALEXANDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor a true community pillar and a servant, Reverend Thomas Peoples. Reverend Peoples currently serves as pastor of the Wisner First Baptist Church in Louisiana where he

has ministered to his congregation, town, and surrounding communities for over a decade.

Some of the words used to describe Reverend Peoples by the members of his church include "caring," "compassionate," "diligent," and "a man of God."

One member of his church said he mirrors the scriptures found in Mark, the 10th chapter, 45th verse, which says: "For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, that He might give His life as a ransom for many."

Reverend Peoples is also a devoted husband, as well as a father of three children. Like so many ministers, his wife and children shoulder the same burdens for the Wisner community.

Madam Speaker, it is truly an honor to recognize Reverend Peoples and his family who are visiting Washington this week.

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, nearly a quarter of a million folks from Louisiana are now in Texas due to the devastating impact of Hurricane Katrina. Taking care of these people is a daunting task, but the good people of southeast Texas have risen to the challenge. Today, I would especially like to acknowledge the hard work being done by our faith community.

They include the Spring Tabernacle in Spring, Texas; the First Baptist Churches of South Houston, Katy, and Houston, Texas; the Bayshore Baptist Church in LaPorte; the New Life Church in LaPorte; the Second Baptist Churches of Baytown and Houston, Texas; Holy Family Catholic Church in Baytown; the Calvary Baptist Church in Beaumont; and the Memorial Church of Christ in Houston.

There are many other churches in Harris, Liberty, and Jefferson Counties who have set up shelters that house evacuees numbering into the thousands. Dozens of other churches have started donation sites and food banks that have been so effective that the Houston Area Salvation Army has stated they have plenty of items for these evacuees.

Madam Speaker, while the work of these churches is extraordinary, they do not seem to think so. To them, they are doing exactly what they should be doing. They are just following the good biblical principle of taking care of and loving their neighbor.

CONSTITUTION DAY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize that this upcoming Saturday is Constitution Day. This annual observance of our Nation's found-

ing charter was made official by President George W. Bush on December 8, 2004. However, Constitution Day has been celebrated for the past 8 years with the recitation of the Preamble by students, military servicemen and -women abroad, and others across the country. This is a special occasion, as it will mark the first simultaneous recitation of the Preamble.

In reciting the Preamble, we join as a Nation to celebrate not only a document but a way of life, and to acknowledge freedoms given by God that no State or power can take away. Our Nation's Founders knew well the need for a government that would not impose burdens upon the people, but would enable them to secure the blessing of liberty.

On this Constitution Day, I remind the Congress of our duty to preserve a strict interpretation of this document. The Framers of the Constitution knew what they were doing. They knew the dangers of a State that grows out of control and imposes its will on the citizenry. We owe it to our constituents to maintain an independent judiciary that is coequal with the other two branches of government, a judiciary that seeks to interpret the law, not write it.

As we observe Constitution Day, let us honor the Constitution's Framers and embrace their foresight and wisdom by teaching this monument to liberty.

SOUTH CAROLINA CARES

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, some 1,500 evacuees from the Gulf Coast, and particularly in New Orleans, are calling Columbia, South Carolina, home through the help of a unique grass-roots effort called South Carolina Cares, which combines private, public, and faith-based organizations.

I want to extend my thanks to my fellow Congressman, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), Columbia Mayor Bob Coble, and University of South Carolina president Andrew Sorensen who worked with the American Red Cross and initiated the effort that now involves thousands of people.

At South Carolina Cares, the only rule is the Golden Rule, and fellow citizens are treated as we would like to be treated if we were in this unthinkable situation. As Sam Tenenbaum, chairman of South Carolina Cares said, "Put yourself in their shoes."

South Carolina Cares is a model for the Nation, demonstrating how people, companies, and organizations and government at all levels are coming together to help their fellow Americans. They will continue to respond to this crisis with action, compassion, and leadership.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.